ANIMADVERSIONS

Upon a Paper, Entituled, The

SPEECH

Of the late

Lord Ruſſel, &c.

THe words of Dying Perſons are apt to give the deepeſt impreſſions upon the Minds of the Living; and though poſſibly there is no point in which I am more tender, than in treading upon the memory of ſuch, who are out of the capacity of making their own Defence; yet reſolving to comport my ſelf with all decency, which I would do if the perſon were living, I think it a neceſſary duty to endeavour to hinder the ſpreading of that Contagion, which has proved ſo fatal to the pretended Author of this Speech, and I fear will prove ſo to others, if they be not charitably undeceived; and truly, if the Diſſenters, who do ſo greedily ſwallow down all that is ſaid in that *Paper*, as if the ſuppoſed Author were a Martyr, and the words as true as Goſpel, do not open their Eyes to ſee the wondrous Contradictions, which Providence has ſo viſibly oppoſed to thoſe Inſinuations, my fears for them are extraordinary, that they are hardened to their own deſtruction; and let them be never ſo angry, I will do all I can to prevent the miſchief they will certainly pull upon their own heads, whilſt they prepare it for others.

I confeſs I have the utmoſt difficulty to believe this Speech to be the Lord *Ruſſel's*, and cannot but ſuſpect the finger of *Job* to be in it; and my reaſon is, becauſe there is ſo much Panegyrick, as is not at all conſiſtent, either with the modeſty or humility of a Perſon *born of worthy good Parents, and who has had the advantages of a Religious Education*, as it is there expreſſed, for he could not then miſs of the Divine Precept of the wiſeſt of meer mortal Men, *Let another Man praiſe thee, and not thine own lips.* The office of making Inventories, of the Virtues as well as Goods of the Deceaſed, and the care of embalming their Memories as well as Bodies has ever been committed to the diſcretion of their Friends, who may without Vanity or Oſtentation ſay thoſe things, which would no ways become themſelves. And ſince that unfortunat Lord tells us, He could never conſent to do a baſe thing, I think it is a ſervice to vindicat him from the moſt indecent and abject of all follies, the blazoning himſelf, and proclaiming his own Praiſes, which is at the leaſt one third part of that ſheet of Paper.

But to let paſs the Panagyricks as the moſt innocent, though not moſt wiſe, I ſhall only give them this Remark: That whoever was the Penman of that Paper, has not done it without a moſt injurious Deſign, of inſinuating into the Heads of the intoxicated Rabble, ſuch a poiſon as may turn them round, ſince the natural and eaſie inference from thence is, That this Gentleman being a Perſon of thoſe Excellencies, and innocent as he avers of the Crimes for which he dies, the loſs is the greater, his Caſe the harder, and the injuſtice done him ſo much the worſe. And we are not unacquainted how far ill men carry on their Reflections, to the diſparagement of the Juſtice both of God and Man, and to run the wild *Mobile* into the utmoſt Frenzies of Extravagance againſt, and deteſtation of the Government and their Governours.

I ſhall not inſiſt upon ſome Expreſſions, which ſeem next to Equivocation, as, *his living and dying of the Reformed Religion, a true and ſincere Proteſtant, and in the communion of the Church of* England, and many ſuch like; words ſo ambiguous, that all the ſeveral Sects will pretend to an intereſt in him; and though the ſcandal of ſuffering for High-Treaſon be not very reputable for any ſort of Men, yet I am glad for the ſake of the Loyal Church of *England*, that he does not ſay he is of the Reformed

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SPEECH

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Lord Russel, &c.

THe words of Dying Persons are apt to give the deepest impressions upon the Minds of the Living; and though possibly there is no point in which I am more tender, than in treading upon the memory of such, who are out of the capacity of making their own Defence; yet resolving to comport my self with all decency, which I would do if the person were living, I think it a necessary duty to endeavour to hinder the spreading of that Contagion, which has proved so fatal to the pretended Author of this Speech, and I fear will prove so to others, if they be not charitably undeceived; and truly, if the Dissenters, who do so greedily swallow down all that is said in that Paper, as if the supposed Author were a Martyr, and the words as true as Gospel, do not open their Eyes to see the wondrous Contradictions, which Providence has so visibly opposed to those Insinuations, my fears for them are extraordinary, that they are hardened to their own destruction; and let them be never so angry, I will do all I can to prevent the mischief they will certainly pull upon their own heads, whilst they prepare it for others.

I confess I have the utmost difficulty to believe this Speech to be the Lord *Russel's*, and cannot but suspect the finger of *Job* to be in it; and my reason is, because there is so much Panegyrick, as is not at all consistent, either with the modesty or humility of a Person *born of worthy good Parents, and who has had the advantages of a Religious Education*, as it is there expressed, for he could not then miss of the Divine Precept of the wisest of meer mortal Men, *Let another Man praise thee, and not thine own lips.* The office of making Inventories, of the Virtues as well as Goods of the Deceased, and the care of embalming their Memories as well as Bodies has ever been committed to the discretion of their Friends, who may without Vanity or Ostentation say those things, which would no ways become themselves. And since that unfortunat Lord tells us, He could never consent to do a base thing, I think it is a service to vindicat him from the most indecent and abject of all follies, the blazoning himself, and proclaiming his own Praises, which is at the least one third part of that sheet of Paper.

But to let pass the Panagyricks as the most innocent, though not most wise, I shall only give them this Remark: That whoever was the Penman of that Paper, has not done it without a most injurious Design, of insinuating into the Heads of the intoxicated Rabble, such a poison as may turn them round, since the natural and easie inference from thence is, That this Gentleman being a Person of those Excellencies, and innocent as he avers of the Crimes for which he dies, the loss is the greater, his Case the harder, and the injustice done him so much the worse. And we are not unacquainted how far ill men carry on their Reflections, to the disparagement of the Justice both of God and Man, and to run the wild *Mobile* into the utmost Frenzies of Extravagance against, and detestation of the Government and their Governours.

I shall not insist upon some Expressions, which seem next to Equivocation, as, *his living and dying of the Reformed Religion, a true and sincere Protestant, and in the communion of the Church of* England, and many such like; words so ambiguous, that all the several Sects will pretend to an interest in him; and though the scandal of suffering for High-Treason be not very reputable for any sort of Men, yet I am glad for the sake of the Loyal Church of *England*, that he does not say he is of the Reformed

Church of *England* as by Law Eſtabliſhed, which teaches all her true Children, not only not to Conſpire or Act Treaſon upon any pretence whatſoever, but not ſo much as to Curſe the King in a thought in their ſafeſt Retirement from diſcovery or danger, even in their Bed-chamber.

That which I would chiefly lay my ſtreſs upon, is the obviating ſome things which are of malicious and dangerous conſequence, not only to the Government, but to the Diſſenters from it, who, I fear, may for want of his giving Glory to God as he ought, become more obſtinat, in perſiſting in the belief of their miſtakes, which, without Repentance, will certainly prove fatal to them poſſibly in this world, but certainly in the next.

And firſt I obſerve that the great ſcope and drift of the Speech is to perſwade fooliſh people that they are in the utmoſt danger of Popery, as particularly *P. 2. I did believe and do ſtill* (ſaith he) *that Popery is breaking in upon the Nation*. This very Topique has already coſt this Nation 40 Millions of Treaſure, and 100000 lives, and one which was more valuable than them all, that of our late Martyred Soveraign King *Charles* the firſt, for whoſe innocent Blood, I fear Divine Vengeance is now calling the Diſſenters to an account, and making Inquiſition for Blood. With this fear of Popery, it is that the people have been ſo far miſled, as to give the late Conſpirators hopes to be aſſiſted by them, even by the confeſſion of this Speech *to undo us all*; to Murder the beſt and moſt Gracious of Princes, and ſubvert the eaſieſt of all Governments. And now let all the world judge who knows beſt, or is moſt likely to prevent the coming in of Popery, the King, who upon all occaſions has condeſcended ſo far as to avow to his people, that he will do all that lyes in his power to keep out Popery, or my Lord *Ruſſel*'s Speech, which affirms to the contrary; it is not only good manners to believe the King, who is as an Angel of God, rather than all the malicious Speeches of men to the contrary, but I do aver, that whoever gives credit to this Calumny, againſt the Kings avowed Declaration, the known rule and practice of the Law to ſuppreſs Popery, is not only an uncharitable and ill Chriſtian, but a moſt diſloyal Subject, ſince it is notorious, that this old *Shaftsbury*'s Cloak of fear of Popery, is the very mantle of Rebellion.

The next thing is the innocence of this Gentleman, which is very poſitively averred in the ſpoken Speech, where 'tis ſaid, *in the words of a dying man, I profeſs I know of no Plot either againſt the Kings life or the Government*. What? know of no Plot? I profeſs it is boldly ſaid, and I doubt not but will be readily believed by the whole Party. But it were well for them if it had been as plainly proved; and truly had the Speech ſtopt here, without the following Comment upon the Text, it would have been ſome difficulty to have Expounded it, and others may do what they pleaſe, but I cannot chuſe but attribute the Printing and Induſtrious diſperſing of this Speech to a Superiour Hand, which has appeared ſo marvellouſly viſible in the Diſcovery of this Helliſh Treaſon. What ſo many Diſcourſes as are Confeſſed, *of the feaſibleneſs of ſeizing the Kings Guards*, p. 3. my Lord *exclaiming againſt it, and asking if the thing ſucceeded what muſt be done next*, &c. the Duke of *Monmouth* tells him, *my Lord* Shaftsbury *and ſome hot men would undo us all*, and askt him at another time, *Did you ever hear ſuch a horrid thing?* and yet to ſay he dies innocent, or knows of no Plot againſt the King's Life or Government, I proteſt I ſtand amazed at the contradiction; for the Evaſions are too ſilly and thin, to think that the horrid thing was only killing the Guards, or that which would undo us all, was ſome diſorderly thing or other which the hot men would do, if great care were not taken. Alas! that any man ſhould be ſo weak himſelf as to think to impoſe upon others ſuch fooliſh inconſiſtencies. No certainly the horrid thing, ſuch as was never heard of, that would undo us all, muſt be Crimes of another nature than this palliating Speech inſinuates, and can be of no other import than Treaſons of the blackeſt complexion. And after the knowledge of ſuch things, to ſay a man knows no Plot, and that he dies innocent, cannot be ſaid; unleſs Plotting and knowing of it be no Treaſon, and that the ſame perſon may be the greateſt Criminal, and the moſt innocent at the ſame time.

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I would fain be answered one Question: And that is, What should this discourse about seizing the Guards be so often debated, and to what purpose can it be supposed to be done? He must be stupid that does not see it carry Treason in the face of it, either in Seizing or Assassinating the Kings Person, or both successively, but still the knowing of this must be misprison of Treason. It was well my Lords Council knew better things, when they advised him *not to confesse matter of Fact plainly*, for if he had confessed as much as this Speech does, he would have saved the Witnesses a labour, and the *easie and willing Jurie*, as the Speech calls them, would not have had occasion to withdraw from the Bar for their Verdict: The Law says, there are no accessaries but all are principles in Treasons. He confesses, *he was pressed with this, that he was acquainted with these heats and ill design and did not discover them*, page 3. and infers *this is but misprision of Treason at most*; but his Lawyers knew better; and though it can do him no service, yet because it may do others who think not revealing Treason no Crime, or that the bare discoursing it is so little a thing, I will give the opinion of one of the Oracles of their Party Mr. St. *John* in his Argument concerning the attainder of the E. of *Strafford*, as I find it in Dr. *Nalsons* 2*d*. Vol. of Collections published the other day, folio 169. where he proves, that bare Machination to raise War, is Treason, He gives several Instances, and one most remarkable as follows. In the 3*d*. year of King *Henrie* IV, one *Balshal* coming from *London*, found one *Bernard* at plough in the Parish of *Ostey*, in the County of *Hertford*: *Bernad* asked *Balshal*, What news? he told him, that the news was, that *Richard* II. was alive in *Scotland* (which was false for he was dead) and that by *Midsummer* next, he would come into *England*; *Bernard* asked him, What were best to be done? *Balshal* answered, get men and go to King *Richard*. In *Michaelmas* Term in the 3*d*. year of *Hen*. 4*th*. in the Kings Bench, *Rot*. 4. This advice adjudged Treason.

One *Story* in Q. *Eliz*. time practised to Levy War, nothing done in pursuance of a practise, the intent adjudged Treason, and he Executed upon it, even before the Act of the XIII. *Eliz*. which made intention Treason during her Life: For this Cause was adjudged in *Hillarie* Term, the Parliament begun not 'till the *April* following.

Now let us infer, if seizing the Kings Guards and making them Prisoners, which cannot be done without Arms, be Levying War, and Levying War be Treason, and the debating this matter be also Treason, and there can be no accessories but all Principles in Treason and my L. *Russel* was at many of these debates, and acquainted with these ill designs, What becomes of his innocence? most assuredly in the sight of God and Man he is Guilty.

Nor is he so innocent neither in that commonly call'd Gentile Quality, which he seems next to his pretended innocence so much as to value himself upon, that, he saith, *he hopes no body will imagine that so mean a thought should enter into me as to go about to save my self, by accusing others*. It seems he could then, if he had not thought it base and mean: but truly if he had too much gallantry to save his Body, he ought to have had enough Religion to save his Soul. And I tremble to think that some persons, who should have done otherwise, have dealt so unfaithfully with him, as to let him dye glorying, and impenitent of two most horrible sins.

For first, here is a most manifest Perjury, which by this not accusing all he knew guilty of these heats and ill designs, he stands manifest *in articulo mortis*, convict of, by his own Confession. For as a Member of the Commons House, how often, as well as in other capacities, he hath sworn by the Omnipotent God, upon the Holy Evangelists, the Oath of Allegiance, of 3*d*. *Jac*. *To do his best endeavour to disclose and make known to His Majestie his Heirs and Successors, all Treasons, and Traiterous Conspiracies, which he shall know or hear of to be against him or any of them*: And yet out of a piece of Gallantry, it is too mean a thing to accuse others. So brave a thing it is to break the Oath of God, and without infinite Mercy, to leap headlong into Damnation, and excuse it as a piece of Bravery. O! wretched Conductors

of

of this poor Gentlemans Soul, to let him pass into Eternity with that dreadful Imprecation annexed to this Oath, of *So help me God*, unthought of and unrepented of! *There were some things said at* Shepheard's *by some*, the Speach tells us, *with more heat than Judgement.* These things ought, by the force of this Oath, to have been revealed, upon the, no less, danger than renouncing all help from God, and all hopes of happiness, and it will be a poor plea, for a shivering soul before the dreadful Tribunal of infinite Justice, to say as the Speech does, *that he did then sufficiently disapprove them*; when he was under the indispensible obligation of a most solemn and sacred Oath, and of the forfeiture of mercy and Heaven bound to disclose and reveal them to the King.

Nor is it a little sin, whatever men may think, not to give Glory to God, by a publick acknowledgement and repentance for that Guilt and those Crimes, for which his justice has brought any person to such publick and exemplary punishment. For besides the injustice which is done to the Righteous Judge of all men, in not vindicating his Glory by a clear and ingenuous confession; it hath this dangerous influence upon others, that thereby they are hardned in their impenitency, and even after death a person may become criminal and accessory to all the ill and dangerous consequences which may be the effects of this supressing of truth.

I pray God some people be not sensible of this, to their utter Ruins: For I cannot without strange apprehensions see the people swallow this deadly draught of Poyson, and endeavour to stifle the most horrid and barbarous Conspiracy, the most clearly proved, and most miraculously both detected and disappointed, that any Age or Story can parallel. A Conspiracy which would have laid these Nations weltering in Blood, and would have made our Posterity the most absolute Slaves to Tyranny and usurpation of any in the Christian World. And it amazes me to hear people talk, That what these Conspirators did, was only for preservation of the *Protestant* Religion, and not against the Kings Life, when the Sun is not more clear than this discovery, that nothing could so entirely have ruined the Government and the Reformed Religion as this Conspiracy, had it taken effect, was designed to have done.

There are a thousand other things might be said, and very necessarily, but I thought it more proper, though with too swift a hand, to do something towards the stemming of the Tide, than to let it overrun all the Banks for want of a little early care to stop the first breaces, and I doubt not but some others will give this Speech a more deliberate Answer, than can be expected from these hasty lines, which are the effect of a perfect duty and Loyalty to my King, zeal to the Glory of God, and the good of all my fellow Subjects, excuses I hope sufficient to procure a Pardon for a Paper writ, it may be, with more affection than any other Ingredients which might have rendred the composure proportionate and exact.

God preserve his sacred *Majesties* Person, the whole Royal Family, the Government, our Religion, Lives, Laws, and Liberties, from the Conspiracies of such men as think Treason Innocence, and concealing it a Glory, and may all the yet secret Machinations of wicked *Achitophels* and Rebellious *Absaloms* be for ever defeated and discovered.

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